01-20-04.

PTO/SB/21 (08-00)<sup>e</sup> Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031 Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box --> + U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Umer the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Application Number 10/680,640 TRANSMITTAL 10-07-2003 Filing Date **FORM** William E. Rodgers First Named Inventor (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) Group Art Unit 3736 **Examiner Name** Total Number of Pages in This Submission Attorney Docket Number 6734 CON ENCLOSURES (check all that apply) After Allowance Communication to Assignment Papers Fee Transmittal Form (for an Application) Group Appeal Communication to Board of ☐ Drawing(s) Fee Attached Appeals and Interferences Appeal Communication to Group Licensing-related Papers Amendment / Response (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) Petition Proprietary Information After Final Petition to Convert to a Affidavits/declaration(s) Status Letter **Provisional Application** Power of Attorney, Revocation Other Enclosure(s) Extension of Time Request Change of Correspondence Address (please identify below): **Postcard** Terminal Disclaimer Petition to Make Special ... Express Abandonment Request Request for Refund Statement in Support of Petition Information Disclosure Statement CD, Number of CD(s) Certified Copy of Priority Remarks Document(s) Applicant believes that all appropriate fees are hereby paid, but authorization is hereby given to Response to Missing Parts/ charge Deposit Account No. 18-0882 for any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment. Incomplete Application Response to Missing eunor Parts under 37 CFR Antonia M. Holland 1.52 or 1.53 SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT Firm RECEIVED Antonia M. Holland Individual name JAN 2 2 2004 D.M. Durot Signature FECHNOLOGY CENTER PATOU Date January 16, 2004 **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING** I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail No. EV208232902US addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this date: January 16, 2004 Typed or printed name Antonia M. Holland  $\mathcal{W} \cdot \mathcal{Q}$ Signature Date January 16, 2004

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**FEE TRANSMITTAL** for FY 2004

Effective 10/01/2003. Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT

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First Named Inventor	William E. Rodgers	VECHNOTOON CO	
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SUBMITTED BY Complete (if applicable) Registration No. 53,840 414-298-8285 Name (Print/Type) Telephone Antonia M. Holland (Attorney/Agent) Signature 01-16-2004

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.17 and 1.27. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Petanark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Date: January 16, 2004

#### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**GROUP ART UNIT: 3736** 

#### **EXAMINER:**

In re application of: William E. Rodgers	)	
Application No: 10/680,640	)	For: Caveson for Use With Horses
Filed: October 7, 2003	)	
Attorney Docket No. 6734-CON	)	January 16, 2004
1 FC:1460 130.00 OP		January 16, 2004

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

#### PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL BECAUSE OF ACTUAL INFRINGEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.102 and M.P.E.P. § 708.02)

NOTE: See M.P.E.P. § 708.02, 7th ed.

Applicant hereby petitions to make this application special because of actual infringement.

#### Accompanying material 1.

Accompanying this petition is:

A Statement by Attorney in Support of Petition to Make Special Because of (a) Actual Infringement.

An Information Disclosure Statement was filed with the application on October 7, 2003 and a copy of each reference is believed already of record in this case, or the parent case U.S. Application No. 10/137,596.

2.	Fee (37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h)-\$130.00)							
		Attached is a $\boxtimes$ check $\square$ in the amount of \$130.00 for submission of this petition to make special.						
		Authorization is hereby made to charge the amount of \$						
		to Deposit Account No.						
		to Credit card as shown on the attached credit card information authorization form PTO-2038.						
		Warning: Credit card information should <b>not</b> be included on this form as it may become public.						
	$\boxtimes$	Charge any additional fees required by this paper or credit any overpaym to Deposit Account No. 18-0882.						
		Pagnootfully gubmitted:						

Antonia M. Holland
Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 53,840

Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c. 1000 North Water Street, Suite 2100 Milwaukee, WI 53202 (414) 298-8285

Customer No. 22922

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Date: January 16, 2004

IN THE UNITED STAT	ES PATEN	IT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ECHNOLOGY	,
GROUP ART UNIT: 3736				
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In re application of: William E. Rodgers  Application No: 10/680,640  Filed: October 7, 2003  Attorney Docket No. 6734-CON	) ) ) ) )	For: Caveson for Use With Hors	CENTER R3700	2004
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Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

#### STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL BECAUSE OF ACTUAL INFRINGEMENT (M.P.E.P. § 708.02)

I, Antonia M. Holland, of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c., located at 1000 North Water Street, Suite 2100, Milwaukee, WI 53202, in the United States, am a registered practitioner in this case and make the following statements:

There is an alleged infringing device actually on the market. A.

The Billy Royal® Rubber Training Caveson was first discovered to exist on November 19, 2002, and is currently being manufactured and sold in both a printed catalog and on the Internet. Exhibit A is a copy of a page in the Schneider's Tack catalog displaying the infringing Billy Royal® Rubber Training Caveson device. Exhibit B is a copy of the Internet web page exhibiting the infringing Billy Royal® Rubber Training Caveson device.

- B. A rigid comparison of the alleged infringing device, referenced in Exhibits A and B, and the claims of the application has been made and Claims 29, 31, 39, 48, and 55 are found to be unquestionably infringed.
  - 1. The allegedly infringing device.

The Billy Royal® Rubber Training Caveson contains a circular segment, including an upper, noseband portion that runs over the nose of a horse and a lower, jaw strap portion that runs under the chin of a horse when the caveson is installed. The circular segment of the Billy Royal® Rubber Training Caveson is made at least in part of stretchable, rubber material located on the sides of a horse's muzzle. As illustrated in Exhibit B, the stretchable, rubber material located on the sides of the horse's muzzle is part of both the upper, nose strap portion and the lower, jaw strap portion of the circular segment. Further, a headstall is attached at each end to the circular segment and runs behind the ears of the horse when installed. As shown in Exhibit B, the rubber inserts of

the Billy Royal® Rubber Training Caveson are stretchable and yet are intended to exert resistance when the horse attempts to open his mouth.

#### 2. Claim 29 of Applicant's Invention

Claim 29 is directed to a caveson comprising a circular segment made at least in part of an elastic, stretchable material, which encircles the muzzle of a horse when installed and a headstall which is attached to the circular segment at each end and which runs behind the ears of the horse when installed. As disclosed in both Claim 29 and the specification, the elastic material can be any material that is stretchable yet exerts resistance on the horse's mouth when the horse attempts to open its mouth.

As stated above, the Billy Royal® Rubber Training Caveson has a circular segment that is made at least in part of an elastic material and a headstall. Therefore, because the Billy Royal® Rubber Training Caveson contains each and every element of Claim 29, Claim 29 is unquestionably infringed by the Billy Royal® Rubber Training Caveson.

### 3. Claim 31 of Applicant's invention.

Claim 31 is directed to a caveson comprising a circular segment having upper and lower hemispherical portions, in which either the upper or the lower hemispherical portion or both are constructed at least in part of an elasticized, resilient material. The caveson further comprises a headstall attached to the circular segment on opposite sides thereof.

As stated above, the Billy Royal® Rubber Training Caveson contains both a circular segment that is made at least in part of an elasticized, resilient material and a headstall. Both the upper hemispherical portion and the lower hemispherical portion of the Billy Royal® Rubber Training Caveson contain a rubber portion located within the circular segment which is an elasticized, resilient material -- designed to provide the caveson with resistance while permitting limited movement of a horse's mouth.

Therefore, the Billy Royal® Rubber Training Caveson contains a circular segment having at least a section of its upper and lower hemispherical portions constructed of an elasticized, resilient material. Accordingly, because the Billy Royal® Rubber Training Caveson contains each and every element of Claim 31, Claim 31 is unquestionably infringed by the Billy Royal® Rubber Training Caveson.

### 4. Claim 39 of the Applicant's invention.

Claim 39 is directed to a cavseon comprising a circular segment containing right and left side portions and at least one elasticized, resilient portion and a headstall attached to the circular segment at the right and left side portions of the circular segment. The elasticized, resilient portion is located anywhere within the circular segment and provides the circular segment with the ability to exert constant pressure on a horse's nose, but with the ability to yield slightly when the horse attempts to open its mouth, thereby reducing the pain.

As stated above, the Billy Royal® Rubber Training Caveson contains both a circular segment that is made at least in part of an elasticized, resilient material (rubber) and a headstall. The rubber material is present within the circular segment, and therefore meets each and every limitation of Claim 39. Accordingly, Claim 39 is unquestionably infringed by the Billy Royal® Rubber Training Caveson.

#### 5. Claim 48 of the Applicant's invention.

Claim 48 discloses a caveson comprising a circular segment for encircling the muzzle of an animal in which the circular segment contains at least one resilient section constructed of an elastic material. The caveson of Claim 48 also contains a headstall attached to the circular section.

Clearly, and as stated above, the Billy Royal® Rubber Training Caveson contains both a circular segment including a resilient section constructed of an elastic (rubber) material and a headstall. Accordingly, because the Billy Royal® Rubber Training Caveson contains each and every element of Claim 48, Claim 48 is unquestionably infringed by the Billy Royal® Rubber Training Caveson.

### 6. Claim 55 of the Applicant's invention.

Claim 55 is directed to a caveson comprising a noseband constructed at least in part of an elasticized, resilient material and a jaw band constructed at least in part of a resilient material which together comprise a circular segment which will be constructed at

least in part of an elasticized, resilient material. The caveson further comprises a headstall attached to the circular segment on opposite sides thereof.

As stated above, the Billy Royal® Rubber Training Caveson contains both a circular segment that is made at least in part of an elasticized, resilient material and a headstall. Both the noseband portion and the jaw strap portion of the Billy Royal® Rubber Training Caveson contain a portion of the rubber insert located within the circular segment which is an elasticized, resilient material -- designed to provide the caveson with resistance while permitting limited movement of a horse's mouth. Therefore, the Billy Royal® Rubber Training Caveson contains each and every element of Claim 55, Claim 55 is unquestionably infringed by the Billy Royal® Rubber Training Caveson.

C. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.102(d), I have a good knowledge of the pertinent prior art. An Information Disclosure Statement citing the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims was filed on October 7, 2003.

<sup>^</sup> 10/680,640 January 16, 2004

Favorable consideration of this petition is respectfully submitted. Should the Examiner believe that the prosecution of the application could be so expedited, the Examiner is requested to call Applicant's undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

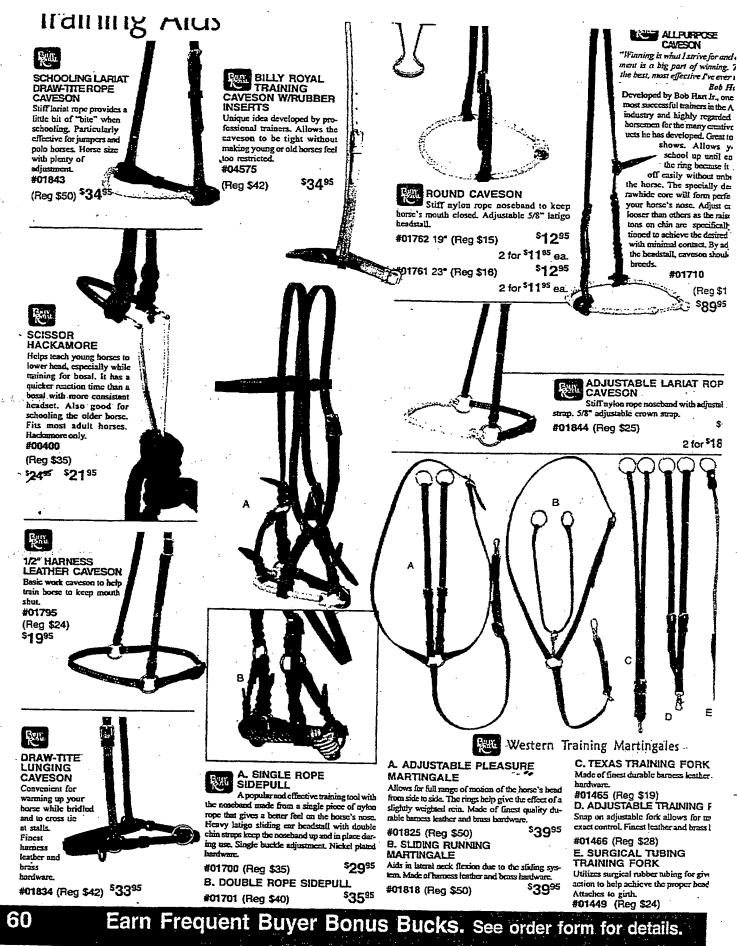
Respectfully submitted:

Antonia M. Holland

Attorney for Applicant Registration No. 53,840

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## Billy Royal® Rubber Training Caveson

Unique training caveson features heavy rubber inserts on each side of nose. Allows caveson to be tightened without making young or bridle shy horses feel too restricted. Rolled leather over nose provides more bite than flat nose cavesons. Adjustable curb and single side adjustment at cheek.

<u>Another view</u>

Item# D

Description

04575 Billy Royal® Rubber

Training Caveson

Qty Reg. Price

\$42.00

Our Price

\$34.95

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